

2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(As of July 12, 2005)



CT General Assembly
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
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Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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2005 Legislative Report (as of 7.12.05)
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

PCSW Legislative Priorities 2005

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women. The following were our priority issues for the 2005 legislative session.

Restore Funding for Essential Programs

Medicaid – Seek restoration of funding to provide health insurance coverage to adult parents and relative caretakers with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) – Lift the cap on appropriations for this program to seek restoration of coverage for non-emergency medical transportation and other “optional” services such as vision, podiatry, and home health care.

Childcare – Restore full funding for the Care4Kids program to provide quality early care and education for children and allow low-income parents to remain on the job.

Nontraditional Occupations Project and Displaced Homemakers Program – Seek restoration of funding for programs that offer job training for women.

Economic Security and Pay Equity

Balancing Work and Family – Support proposals to provide paid leave time or family leave insurance so that workers can balance work and family responsibilities.

Career Ladders – Support continued funding for Career Ladder pilots for childcare, health care, and information technology workers.

Affordable Housing – Support proposals to increase the number of affordable housing units and provide programs and services to prevent homelessness.

Tax Reform to Assist Low-Income Families – Support tax proposals such as a state Earned Income Tax Credit to support the economic self-sufficiency of low-income families.

Women and Business Development

Microenterprises – Support proposals to establish a Task Force to define the unique needs of very small businesses and find solutions that take into consideration their size and revenues.

Small Businesses – Support funding for programs that assist women-owned small businesses.

Women and Health Care

Medicaid – Support proposals to implement a family planning waiver, and to reform or revise the existing presumptive eligibility criteria.

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) – Support proposals to institute certain due process rights and protections for enrollees.

Medical Malpractice Insurance – Support comprehensive reform proposals that protect women's access to health care by protecting physicians, especially obstetricians and gynecologists, from unreasonable insurance premiums while also protecting patients who are injured by malpractice.

Nutrition – Support proposals that address the need for nutritional education and services in an effort to address preventable health conditions, particularly eating disorders and obesity.

Gender Appropriate Behavioral/Mental Health Services – Support proposals for pilot programs to demonstrate and evaluate “best practices” in providing gender-appropriate treatment services for women and girls with behavioral and mental health needs.

Smoking Prevention and Cessation Programs – Support proposals to appropriate funds for Medicaid coverage of smoking prevention and cessation programs.

Civil Rights

Affirmative Action Officers – Support proposals to reduce the current annual training requirements for Affirmative Action Officers.

Legal Protections for Same Gender Couples – Support measures to extend equal protections, benefits and responsibilities, including the right to civil marriage, to same gender couples.

Family Law

Health Benefits – Support measures to allow an employee to continue to cover an ex-spouse at the family coverage rate if ordered or agreed upon in a divorce agreement.

Political Participation

Election Day Registration – Support proposals to permit Election Day registration to increase voter participation.

Violence Against Women

Trafficking of Women and Children – Support continuing efforts to define trafficking in state criminal code and to increase interagency cooperation, data collection, and training.

Domestic Violence Shelters – Support proposals to provide funding to increase shelter staff.

Criminal Justice and Corrections

Reforms in Juvenile Justice Programs for Girls - Support continuing efforts to provide a continuum of community-based services designed to prevent the incarceration of juvenile status offenders and delinquents.

Legislative Update 2005

The following are brief summaries of selected bills and budget items that the PCSW monitored because of their potential impact on the status of women and girls.

RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS

MEDICAID- HUSKY A and B

Effective July 1, 2005.

Significant additional funding and restoration of eligibility for low-income adults were included in the budget and budget implementer bills PA 05-251, AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2007, Deficiency Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005, and Certain Taxes and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue and PA 05-280, AAC Social Services and Public Health Budget Implementation Provisions.

The budget restored HUSKY A eligibility for adults up to 150% of the federal poverty level with \$39,004,505 appropriated for FY 06 and \$54,962,380 appropriated for FY 07. However, there is a cost-sharing requirement of a \$1.00 co-pay for outpatient visits and a \$25.00 per month/per adult premium for adults whose incomes exceed 100% of the federal poverty level. The imposition of premiums will require a federal waiver, which may delay implementation. Increased cost sharing was also implemented for recipients of HUSKY B. Presumptive eligibility for HUSKY A children was restored. The rules for expedited eligibility for pregnant women were changed such that emergency applications must be processed within 24 hours of receipt and non-emergency applications within 5 calendar days. \$1.5 million in funding for FY 06 & FY 07 was provided for new Katie Beckett slots, which allow children with severe mental health care needs to remain home rather than receive care in an institutional setting. Cash, medical and food benefits for legal immigrants were also maintained in the budget.

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Husky Outreach/DSS	684,000	704,520	+20,520
Husky Program/DSS	26,615,000	24,250,000	-2,365,000
Husky Plus/DSS	550,000	0	-550,000
Medicaid/DSS	2,926,074,000	3,218,835,155	+292,761,155

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STATE ASSISTED GENERAL ASSISTANCE (SAGA)

Effective July 1, 2005.

Although the original bills to restore funding to SAGA failed, provisions were passed in Section 11 of PA 05-280, AAC Social Services and Public Health Budget Implementation Provisions.

The freeze on cost of living increases for SAGA recipients is continued for the biennium. A pilot program is established to provide medical coverage for 100 people who are 19 to 21 years of age, reside with their parents or relative caregiver, have been diagnosed with one or more mental disorders as defined in the DSM, have substantial functional impairment as a result of the mental disorder or chronic health condition and are ineligible for SAGA because their parents' or relative caregiver's income is too high.

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
SAGA/DSS	123,379,250	143,588,645	+20,209,395

CARE 4 KIDS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Although the original bills to increase funding to the Care 4 Kids Childcare Subsidy Program failed, provisions were passed in PA 05-251, AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2007, Deficiency Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005, and Certain Taxes and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue.

The Care 4 Kids Childcare Subsidy Program was flat-funded this year. The recommendation to change eligibility requirements to allow children up to 75% of the federal poverty level in the program failed. The program remains open only to kids living at 55% of the federal poverty level.

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Child Care Services – TANF/CCDBG/DSS	68,122,738	68,579,793	+457,055

ECONOMIC SECURITY/PAY EQUITY

PA 05-32, AA Increasing the Minimum Wage (sHB 6228)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law increases the minimum wage to \$7.40 effective January 1, 2006 and to \$7.65 effective January 1, 2007.

sSB 1056, AA Providing for Additional Units for the Supportive Housing Initiative and for Financing of the Initiative by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority

CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2005.

Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 31 of PA 05-280, AAC Social Services and Public Health Budget Implementation Provisions.

This law requires up to an additional 500 supportive housing units to be established through the "Next Steps Initiative," which is a joint effort between the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services, Children and Families, Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority.

sHB 6949, AAC School Readiness

CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2005.

Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 4 of PA 05-245, AAC Education Implementer Provisions.

This law establishes a grant program that will provide scholarships to assist early childhood educators with obtaining their credentials in early childhood education or child development.

PA 05-244, AAC The Implementation of Recommendations Made by the Child Poverty Council (sHB 5482)

PASSED, effective upon passage, except for the promotion of the federal earned income tax credit, which is effective October 1, 2005.

This bill requires that the Office of Policy and Management establish procedures to improve access to services that diminish poverty or negative outcomes related to poverty and requires state contracted programs to utilize performance-based standards and outcome measures related to child poverty. In addition, DSS, in conjunction with the Child Poverty Council, is required to promote greater utilization of the federal earned income tax credit and enhance financial literacy and self-sufficiency programs.

2005 Legislative Session

Appropriations For Selected Programs Related to Economic Security

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Workforce Investment Act	23,062,580	27,287,659	+4,225,079
Jobs First Employment/DOL	16,188,098	16,188,098	same
Individual Development Accounts/DOL	250,000	0	-250,000
State Food Stamp Supplement/DSS	254,277	202,148	-52,129
TANF/DSS	135,301,655	132,281,610	-3,020,045
Safety Net Services/DSS	1,500,000	1,545,000	+45,000
Housing/Homeless Services/DSS	21,891,225	25,880,544	+3,989,319
Employment Opportunities/DSS	1,192,235	1,228,002	+35,767
Housing/Homeless Services/DSS to locals	660,266	680,074	+19,808
Career Ladder Pilot Programs/OWC	0	500,000	+500,000
Jobs Funnel Projects/OWC	0	1,000,000	+1,000,000
Employment Success Program/DSS – carry forward from Safety Net Services	0	515,600	+515,600

The following bills failed:

SB 1018, AAC Family and Medical Leave

FAILED. The Labor and Public Employees and Education Committees voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have allowed all full-time state employees to use up to ten days of accrued paid sick leave each year for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a seriously ill child, spouse or parent. The General Assembly passed a law in 2003 requiring this benefit for some private sector employees. This year's bill would also have extended the state Family and Medical Leave Act protections to municipal, public and private school employees.

SB 1346, AAC Paraprofessionals, School Nurses and Pay Equity

FAILED. Although the Education Committee held a public hearing on this bill, it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have required the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding pay equity in the education profession. Also, a "career ladder" would have

been established for paraprofessionals through which scholarships would have been provided to assist them with obtaining a teaching certification.

HB 5398, AA Guaranteeing Full-Time Employees at Least Seven Sick Days Per Year.

FAILED. Although the Labor and Public Employees Committee held a public hearing on this bill, it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have required all employers with fifty or more employees to provide at least seven paid sick days per year for each full-time employee.

sSB 6708, AAC The Workforce Readiness of the Jobs First Program Participants

FAILED. The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have required the Department of Labor to do a thorough assessment of Jobs First recipients to ensure that barriers to successful workforce participation, such as poor reading or math skills, are recognized. In addition, DOL would have been required to increase basic education programs to participants, including literacy, numeracy and English as a Second Language. The bill included an appropriation of \$18 million.

sHB 6875, AAC Administration of the Temporary Family Assistance Program

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have increased the number of TFA recipients who could satisfy work requirements through participation in educational activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent, or through participation in vocational education training. Also, extensions of benefits would have been permitted for recipients unable to find jobs because they live in areas of high unemployment.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

PA 05-238, AAC Groups Covered Under the State Employee Health Plan and Association Group Plans (sHB 6655)

PASSED, effective upon passage.

This law extends the advantage of risk pooling to the Municipal Employee Health Insurance Plan (MEHIP) and other association group plans that provide group insurance to small employers, which will significantly reduce health insurance premiums offered through such programs.

PA 05-189, AAC the Expiration of Gift Cards (sSB 123)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law provides a period of fifty years before a gift card can be considered to have expired. This protects consumers and reduces the amount of paperwork that small business owners must do in order to report abandoned property to the State Treasurer.

Appropriations For Selected Programs Related to Women-Owned Business

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Entrepreneurial Centers/DECD	142,500	142,500	same

sSB 100, AA Establishing a Small Business Programs Clearinghouse in the Department of Economic and Community Development and Establishing a Pilot Microloan Program for Microenterprises

FAILED. The Commerce Committee voted favorably on this bill. The Senate referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have authorized the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to establish a Small Business Programs Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse would have identified the needs of small businesses and arranged for services to assist in these needs. This bill would have provided funding for the DECD to establish a pilot program to identify, evaluate and assist microloan applicants in preparing and finalizing their business plans.

WOMEN AND HEALTHCARE

PA 05-120, AA Providing the Commissioner of Social Services with Authority to Seek a Medicaid Waiver for Family Planning Services (sHB 6542)

PASSED, effective July 1, 2005

This law authorizes the Department of Social Services to seek a federal waiver to allow Medicaid to cover family planning services to adults in households with income up to 185% of the federal poverty level who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid coverage. Under this plan, the federal government pays 90% of the costs for services, while the state pays 10% of the costs.

PA 05-117, AAC School Nutrition (sSB 1309)

VETOED

This law would have prohibited the sale of soda in elementary and middle schools, allowing only water, dairy and non-dairy milk, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, and beverages with no added natural or artificial sweeteners to be sold in such schools. High schools would have been permitted to sell only sugar-free soda and electrolyte replacement drinks starting one half hour after the last lunch period. Additionally, elementary schools would have been required to provide twenty minutes a day during which there is an opportunity for students to engage in physical activity. Schools would also have the option to establish Wellness Committees to address the nutritional and physical activity policies of their school.

PA 05-69, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening (sSB 30)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law requires certain health insurers to provide coverage for comprehensive ultrasound screening if a physician recommends the procedure for a woman classified within certain categories under the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology.

PA 05-196, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Infertility Treatment and Procedures (sSB 508)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law requires individual and group health insurers to cover medically necessary infertility diagnosis and treatment expenses for adults up to age 40, with certain lifetime maximum benefit restrictions.

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PA 05-275, AAC Medical Malpractice (sSB 1052)

PASSED, some sections are effective upon passage, while others are effective October 1, 2005.

This comprehensive law reforms civil litigation rules, insurance regulations and medical provider regulations, in order to reduce medical malpractice insurance rates.

Medicare Part D and ConnPACE

Changes to Medicare Part D and ConnPACE were made in Sections 15 – 30 of PA 05-280, AAC Social Services and Public Health Budget Implementation Provisions.

Medicare Part D wrap-around language was not included in the budget, which would have made certain that dually eligible and ConnPACE recipients were held harmless in instances when Medicare Part D does not cover certain prescriptions. Also, the budget does not cover gaps in coverage, which results in dually eligible and ConnPACE recipients being subject to prescription co-pays. However, the co-pays cannot exceed the \$16.25 ConnPACE co-pay that currently exists. DSS will pay the Medicare Part D plan monthly premiums for ConnPACE recipients until the federal Medicare Part D program begins January 1, 2006.

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
ConnPACE/DSS	66,047,677	50,089,246	-15,958,431

Appropriations For Selected Programs Related to Healthcare

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Treatment/DPH	1,601,659	1,651,478	+49,819
CT Home Care Program/DSS	36,660,000	43,775,000	+7,115,000
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	1,364,281	1,388,252	+23,971
Teen Pregnancy Prevention to local	799,018	839,946	+40,928
Medicaid Administration/DPH	3,776,174	3,459,529	-316,645
Community Health Services/DPH	5,757,976	6,030,716	+272,740
Local & District Health Departments/DPH	3,952,826	4,195,374	+242,548
School Based Health Clinics/DPH	5,892,729	6,519,099	+626,370
Venereal Disease Control/DPH	204,477	210,612	+6,135
Community Services Support for Persons with AIDS/DPH	187,769	193,402	+5,633
AIDS Services/DPH	3,794,772	4,555,365	+760,593
AIDS Drug Assistance/DSS	606,678	1,776,352	+1,169,674

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The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

2005 Legislative Session

Early Intervention/DMR	23,374,940	23,350,189	-24,751
General Assistance Managed Care/DMHAS	70,772,681	73,029,636	+2,256,955
Behavioral Health Medications/DMHAS	6,289,095	7,889,095	+1,600,000
Community Mental Health Strategy Board/DMHAS	2,500,000	6,050,178	+3,550,178
Medicaid Adult Rehabilitation Option/DMHAS	2,555,000	2,250,000	-305,000
Grants for Substance Abuse Services/DMHAS	20,491,043	22,181,893	+1,690,850
Grants for Mental Health Services/DMHAS	72,804,948	76,320,123	+3,515,175

The following bills failed:

SB 87, AAC Eligibility for the State-Funded Portion of the Home-Care Program for the Elderly

FAILED. Although the Select Committee on Aging, and the Appropriations and Public Health Committees voted favorably on this bill, it was not called for a vote in the Senate.

This bill would have increased eligibility for the state-funded portion of the Home-Care Program by increasing the amount of assets that people can keep and still be eligible.

SB 607, AAC The Use of Preferred Drug Lists and Prior Authorization Procedures by the Department of Social Services of any Entity that Administers a Medicaid Managed Care Health Plan

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have ensured basic consumer protections regarding prescription drug coverage for Medicaid, SAGA and ConnPACE participants such as expedited prior approval responses and appeals, an immediate authorization of a fifteen day prescription supply when prior approval has not yet been obtained, and prohibition against requiring prior approval for a second time once it has been determined that an individual needs a specific drug.

2005 Legislative Session

sSB 1147, AAC Employee Health Security

FAILED. Although the Labor and Public Employees, Finance, Revenue and Bonding, and Human Services Committees voted favorably on this bill, the Senate recommitted it to the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

This bill would have required employers with 5,000 or more full-time employees to either provide affordable health insurance to their employees or pay a Health Security Surcharge to be used by the Commissioner of Social Services to offset the costs of providing insurance to these employees through a state-run insurance program.

SB 1225, AAC Funding of Smoking Cessation Programs Administered by the Department of Social Services

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have allocated \$900,000 from the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund to fund Medicaid coverage of smoking cessation, as well as fund a smoking cessation hotline.

sHB 6960, AAC Gender Specific Behavioral Health Services and Substance Abuse Services

FAILED. Although the Judiciary, Appropriations, Public Health and Human Services Committees voted favorably on this bill, it was not called for a vote in the House.

This bill would have required that all behavioral health services and substance abuse services provided by the state, or by private providers under contract with the state, be gender specific. A competitive grant program also would have been established to encourage best practices in the delivery of gender specific treatment.

RB 6880, AA Establishing a Pilot Program to Provide Home-Care Services to Disabled Persons Eighteen to Sixty-Four Years of Age.

FAILED. The Human Services Committee voted favorably on this bill and referred it to the Appropriations Committee, where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have established a pilot program through the Department of Social Services to provide home-care for disabled individuals eighteen to sixty-four years of age who are inappropriately institutionalized or at risk of such institutionalization.

FAMILY LAW

PA 05-258, AAC Arbitration in Certain Family Relation Matters (sSB 1194)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law allows couples seeking a divorce to submit their disputes to binding arbitration, with the exception of disputes regarding child custody or visitation.

SB 1302, AAC Continuation of Health Insurance Coverage After a Divorce, Legal Separation or Annulment.

FAILED. Although the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, it was not called for a vote.

The bill would have required that, in the event of a divorce, legal separation or annulment, health and dental insurers must allow an employee to continue to cover his or her former spouse under the same terms as such person was previously covered.

CIVIL RIGHTS

PA 05-10, AAC Civil Unions (sSB 963)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law allows two people of the same gender to enter into a civil union and be afforded all of the rights and benefits of civil marriage offered by the state of Connecticut.

sSB 283, AAC Paid Leave for Volunteer Firefighter Training and Requirements for Affirmative Action Training for Certain State Employees

CONCEPT PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in sSB 96, AAC Government Administration.

This law reduces the number of hours that the PCSW, in conjunction with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, must train Affirmative Action Officers from ten hours to five hours annually after the first year.

SB 1156, AAC Discrimination Awards Received by Recipients of State Assistance

CONCEPT PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in Section 44 of PA 05-280, AAC Social Services and Public Health Budget Implementation Provisions.

This law prohibits any money received as part of a settlement or award in a housing or employment discrimination case to be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility under various state assistance programs, such as Medicaid, TFA and SAGA.

HB 6698, AAC The Deprivation of Rights on Account of Sexual Orientation

FAILED. Although the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have authorized the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities to investigate discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation against students in schools and to enforce state statutes prohibiting such discrimination.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

PA 05-235, AAC Absentee Voting, Elections Enforcement, a Voting Technology Standards Board, Nomination Procedures, Training for Election Officials, Campaign Finance Reporting, Restoration of Voting Rights and Voter Registration (sSB 6669)

PASSED, voter registration changes effective January 1, 2006; less restrictive registration requirements for ex-felons effective July 1, 2005; expanded duty and authority of registrars effective July 1, 2005; and establishment of Voting Technology Standards Board effective upon passage.

This law permits voter registration up to seven days prior to an election, prohibits registrars from requiring ex-felons to provide a copy of their discharge letter upon registration, expands the duty and authority of registrars to supervise absentee voting, and establishes a Voting Technology Standards Board to ensure the accuracy of electronic voting machines.

sSB 61, AA Providing for Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform for State-Wide Constitutional and General Assembly Offices.

FAILED. Although the Senate passed this bill, it was not called for a vote in the House.

This bill would have established a public financing system for elected officials and legislators beginning with the 2010 elections, as well as voluntary campaign spending limits.

sHB 6670, AAC Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform for State-Wide Constitutional and General Assembly Offices.

FAILED. Although the House passed this bill, it was not called for a vote in the Senate.

This bill would have established a public financing system for elected officials and legislators beginning with the 2008 elections.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

ssB 501, AAC Additional Appropriations for Domestic Violence Shelters
CONCEPT PASSED, effective July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006.

Although the original bill failed, the concept was passed in PA 05-251, AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2007, Deficiency Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005, and Certain Taxes and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue.

The budget includes funding in the amount of \$500,000 to be reallocated from the Judicial Branch to the Department of Social Services over the next two fiscal years that will enable some domestic violence shelters to have on-site paid staff, twenty-four hours per day.

PA 05-147, AAC The Issuance and Violation of Restraining and Protective Orders
PASSED, effective October 1, 2005.

This law allows courts to issue protective orders against individuals who have been charged with harassment in the first or second degree. This law also increases the penalty for the violation of a restraining order by reclassifying such violation from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony.

SB 892, AAC Consensual Sexual Activity Between Adolescents Close in Age to Each Other
FAILED. Although the Judiciary Committee voted favorably on this bill, it was not called for a vote in the Senate.

This bill would have decriminalized consensual sexual intercourse and sexual contact between youths who are close in age to one another. Under this proposed law, adolescents engaging in consensual sexual activity would only be charged with statutory rape if one party is more than two calendar years older than a 13-year-old or more than three calendar years older than a 14-year-old. The bill leaves unchanged the law making anyone, regardless of age, guilty of this crime if such person has sexual contact with a person under age 13.

Appropriations For Selected Programs Related to Violence Against Women

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Rape Crisis/DPH	402,429	414,503	+12,074
Forensic Sex Evidence Exams/Criminal Justice	640,000	640,000	same

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

PA 05-250, AAC Children of Families with Service Needs (sHB 6978)

PASSED, effective October 1, 2007.

This law prohibits holding children whose families have been adjudicated as a Family with Service Needs (FWSN) in juvenile detention or classifying them as delinquent solely for violating a court's FWSN order.

SB 172, AAC The Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Juvenile Justice System.

FAILED. Although the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on this bill, it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have required the Judicial Department to establish cultural competency planning to address the barriers of race and ethnicity for youth in the juvenile justice system. A pilot program also would have been established through the Judicial Department and DCF that would have provided a community mapping system to assess the availability and adequacy of alternatives to incarceration.

HB 6359, AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Girls Services Steering Committee

FAILED. The Select Committee on Children voted favorably on this bill, as did the Judiciary Committee, which referred it to the Appropriations Committee where it was not called for a vote.

This bill would have required the Court Support Services Division to create community-based services for female adolescents that are gender specific and trauma-based.

Appropriations For Selected Programs Related to Criminal Justice

Program/Agency	Previously Appropriated	Current Appropriation	Amount Change
Aid to Paroled and Discharged Inmates/DOC	8,750	9,000	+250
Community Support Services/DOC	22,358,705	26,404,552	+4,045,847
Alternative Incarceration Program/Judicial	38,755,910	42,465,450	+3,709,540
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration/Judicial	20,064,187	21,239,804	+1,175,617
Juvenile Justice Centers/Judicial	2,943,573	3,077,358	+133,785

OTHER BUSINESS

Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons (established in 2004 by SA 04-8)

Although the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, which is staffed by the PCSW, did not offer any legislation during the 2005 legislative session, it has met thirteen times since its inception in October 2004. The Task Force continues to research the extent of trafficking in Connecticut, the adequacy of current state penal codes to address trafficking, and the types of services that are currently available or needed to assist victims of human trafficking. The Task Force will submit its findings to the CGA on January 1, 2006, which will include recommendations for addressing human trafficking in Connecticut.

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PCSW Testimony

PCSW has submitted oral or written testimony on the following **89** bills or issues before the indicated committees:

Budgetary Matters

- HB 6671, AAC The State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2007, and Making Appropriations Therefore – Appropriations
 - Proposed Appropriations for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
 - Proposed Appropriations for the Departments of Economic and Community Development, Labor, Public Health, and Social Services; as well as for the Office of Workforce Competitiveness
- HB 6680, AA Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education - Education

Civil Rights

- SB 963, AAC Marriage Equality – Judiciary
- HB 6601, AAC Marriage Recognition – Judiciary
- HB 6698, AAC The Deprivation of Rights on Account of Sexual Orientation - Judiciary

Criminal Justice

- SB 172, AAC The Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Juvenile Justice System – Judiciary
- SB 892, AAC Consensual Sexual Activity Between Adolescents Close in Age to Each Other – Judiciary
- HB 6290, AAC Inmate Purchases, Clothing & Visits – Judiciary
- HB 6359, AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Girls Services Steering Committee – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 6363, AAC Alternatives to Incarceration and Diversion Programs for Adolescent Girls – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 6799, AAC Juvenile Justice – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 6848, AAC The Reduction of Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System – Judiciary
- HB 6961, AAC A Prisoner Re-entry Commission – Judiciary
- HB 6978, AAC Alternatives to Incarceration, Diversion Programs and Community-Based Services for Female Children in the Juvenile Justice System – Judiciary

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- HB 6980, AAC Services Available to a Child in a Family with Service Needs - Judiciary

Economic Security

- SB 758, AA Providing Additional Funding to Municipalities to Provide Housing and Emergency Shelter Services – *Select Committee on Housing*
- SB 897, AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Child Poverty Council – *Select Committee on Children*
- SB 983, AA Appropriating Housing Funds for Municipalities – *Select Committee on Housing*
- SB 984, AAC Restoration of the Service Level in the Rental Assistance Program – *Select Committee on Housing*
- SB 989, AAC The Preservation of Federally-Assisted Housing as Low and Moderate Income Housing – *Select Committee on Housing*
- SB 1018, AAC Family and Medical Leave – *Labor and Public Employees*
- SB 1098, AAC The Professionalization of the Early Childhood Education Workforce – *Higher Education and Employment Advancement*
- SB 1214, AAC The Availability of Rental Assistance Certificates – *Human Services*
- SB 1328, AAC The Expansion of the “CT IDA Initiative” – *Appropriations*
- HB 5145, AAC Affordable Housing Developments – *Select Committee on Housing*
- HB 5398, AA Guaranteeing Full-Time Employees At Least Seven Paid Sick Days Per Year – *Labor and Public Employees*
- HB 5404, AA Permitting Family and Medical Leave for Care of an Adult Child – *Labor and Public Employees*
- HB 5482, AAC The Implementation of the Recommendations of the Child Poverty Council – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 5963, AAC Affordable Housing Dwelling Units – *Select Committee on Housing*
- HB 6099, AA Providing Resources to Municipalities Currently Funding Housing Out of Local General Funds – *Select Committee on Housing*
- HB 6228, AA Increasing the Minimum Wage – *Labor and Public Employees*
- HB 6552, AAC Credit in the State Employees Retirement System for Prior State Service – *Labor and Public Employees*
- HB 6595, AA Appropriating Funding for Housing for Homeless Persons – *Select Committee on Housing*
- HB 6708, AAC The Workforce Readiness of the Jobs First Program Participants – *Higher Education and Employment Advancement*
- HB 6751, AAC The Unemployment Compensation Alternative Base Period – *Labor and Public Employees*

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- HB 6761, AAC Pensions for Municipal Paraprofessionals and Non-certified School Personnel – *Labor and Public Employees*
- HB 6859, AAC A Career Ladder Program for Education Paraprofessionals and Loan Forgiveness for Teachers – *Higher Education and Employment Advancement*

Family Law

- SB 1120, AAC Joint Legal and Physical Custody and Equal Parental Rights in Custody Determination – *Judiciary*
- HB 6124, AAC The Extension of Health Insurance Benefits for Divorced Spouses – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6277, AAC Continuation of Health Insurance Coverage for Divorced Spouses – *Insurance and Real Estate*

Healthcare

- SB 28, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 30, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening for Individuals with a Family History of Breast Cancer – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 130, AA To Study Health Insurance Coverage for Treatment of Obesity – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 131, AAC Medical Liability Insurance Reform – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 140, AAC Health Insurance Policies with Reduced Benefits – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 431, AAC Prior Approval for Medical Malpractice Insurance Rates – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 434, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Ultrasound Breast Cancer Screening – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 508, AAC Health Insurance Benefits for the Diagnosis and Treatment for Infertility – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- SB 607, AAC The Use of Preferred Drug Lists and Prior Authorization by the Department of Social Services in the Administration of Programs with Prescription Drug Benefits – *Human Services*
- SB 671, AAC The Annual Report Submitted By the Commissioner of Social Services to the General Assembly – *Human Services*
- SB 801, AA Requiring Legislative Review and Approval of Waiver Applications Prior to Submittal to the Federal Government – *Human Services*
- SB 1026, AA Providing Finding for a Smoking Cessation Quit Line – *Public Health*
- SB 1052, AAC Medical Malpractice – *Judiciary*
- SB 1147, AAC Employee Health Security – *Labor and Public Employees*

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- SB 1174, AAC School Nutrition – *Select Committee on Children*
- SB 1175, AA Establishing A School Breakfast Pilot Program – *Select Committee on Children*
- SB 1225, AAC Funding of Smoking Cessation Programs Administered by the Department of Social Services – *Human Services*
- SB 1226, AAC Prior Authorization Requirements for Prescription Drugs in Medical Assistance Programs Administered by the Department of Social Services – *Human Services*
- SB 1309, AAC School Nutrition – *Education*
- SB 1333, AAC Medical Malpractice Reform – *Public Health*
- SB 1353, AA Expanding the Availability of Health Insurance – *Public Health*
- SB 1364, AAC Reforms Related to Medical Malpractice Insurance – *Judiciary*
- HB 5481, AAC The Adolescent Health Council and a Study of Adolescent Abstinence Programs – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 5712, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6131, AA Reforming the Medical Malpractice Insurance Laws – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6354, AAC A Study of the Effectiveness of Teen Abstinence Programs – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 6438, AAC Restoration of Husky Plan, Part A Benefits for Parents and Needy Caretaker Relatives – *Human Services*
- HB 6542, AA Providing the Commissioner of Social Services with Authority to Seek a Medicaid Waiver for Family Planning Services – *Human Services*
- HB 6588, AA Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Infertility Treatment and Procedures – *Public Health*
- HB 6790, AA Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Relative to the Medicaid Eligibility Determination Process – *Program Review and Investigations*
- HB 6800, AA Appropriating Funds for Nutrition Programs – *Select Committee on Children*
- HB 6960, AAC Gender Specific Behavioral Health Services and Substance Abuse Services – *Judiciary*

Political Participation

- SB 59, AAC Election Day Voter Registration – *Government Administration and Elections*
- HB 6529, AAC Election Day Registration – *Government Administration and Elections*

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- HB 6670, AAC Comprehensive Reform of Campaign Finance Laws – *Government Administration and Elections*

Violence Against Women

- SB 501, AAC Additional Appropriations for Domestic Violence Shelters – *Human Services*

Women Owned-Business

- SB 100, AA Establishing A Small Business Programs Clearinghouse in the Department of Economic and Community Development – *Commerce*
- SB 414, AAC The Escheating of Gift Certificates or Gift Cards to the State – *General Law*
- HB 5073, AAC The Escheating of Gift Certificates to the State – *General Law*
- HB 5496, AA Creating A Microloan Program for Microenterprises – *Commerce*
- HB 5710, AAC Coverage for Uninsured Individuals Under the State Employee Health Plan – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 5714, AAC Rating for Small Employers who Purchase Insurance Through the State Employee Health Plan – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6497, AAC Microenterprises Economic Development – *Commerce*
- HB 6655, AAC Cost Savings Under Small Employer Health Plans and the State Employee Health Plan – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6656, AAC Groups Covered Under the State Employee Health Plan – *Insurance and Real Estate*
- HB 6686, AAC The Set-Aside Program for Small Contractors – *Government Administration and Elections*

Other

- Contracting Reform – *Governor's Task Force*
- Policies to Reduce Childhood Poverty – *Child Poverty Council*

UNDERSTANDING THE BILL TRACKING PROCESS

Here is how the House and Senate bills are numbered:

Senate bills are numbered from 1 to 4999

House bills are numbered from 5001 to 9999

Resolutions are numbered starting from one and are the following types:

HR-House Resolution

HJ-House Joint Resolution

SR-Senate Resolution

SJ-Senate Joint Resolution

Here is how to research the legislation, see the text of the bill and find out its status.

If you have access to a computer:

If you know the bill number, you can go to the Connecticut General Assembly homepage at www.cga.ct.gov. Type the bill number in the "Quick Search" box. If you are looking for a resolution type in the two characters (ex. HR, HJ, SR, SJ) and the resolution number. A screen with the history of the bill will pop up. You can click on the bill to read the full text.

If you do not know the bill number, you can do a "Search by Subject" or a "Text Search." You can type in dates and/or phrases to find the bill you are looking for.

If you do not have access to a computer:

If you know the bill number, contact the Bill Information Room and request information. You can check for public hearings in *The Bulletin*, which is published daily during the week.

The Bill Information Room is in Vault 5 in the State Capitol; the telephone number is (860) 240-0555.

If you would like to contact your legislator by phone:

Senate Democrats:	(860) 240-8600; (800) 842-1420
Senate Republicans	(860) 240-8800; (800) 842-1421
House Democrats Leadership:	(860) 240-8500; (800) 842-1902
House Democrats Rank & File:	(860) 240-8585; (800) 842-8267
House Republicans Leadership	(860) 240-8700; (800) 842-1423
House Republicans Rank & File:	(860) 240-8787; (800) 842-8270

To contact your legislator by email:

firstname.lastname@cga.ct.gov